

East European Democracy Act of 1989 and that provides certain guidelines for such assistance and related assistance to that region.

While supporting continued United States assistance for the countries of Southeast Europe, this measure makes it clear that no United States bilateral assistance, other than that provided for democratization and humanitarian purposes, may be provided to the Republic of Serbia until the character of its government has changed. It does, however, ensure that aid may proceed to the region of Kosovo. It also authorizes a special program to assist the democratic opposition throughout Serbia and the Republic of Montenegro, providing for \$42 million in fiscal year 2001 for that purpose alone. This measure also ensures that at least \$55 million will be provided for economic and political reforms in the Republic of Montenegro in fiscal year 2001 in recognition of the increasingly positive efforts the Government of Montenegro has taken in support of democracy, peace, and stability in the Balkans region.

H.R. 4053 indeed provides some important limitations on United States assistance to Southeastern Europe. In addition to prohibiting bilateral assistance for economic reforms in the Republic of Serbia until the character of its government has changed for the better, it requires that assistance for democratization in Serbia not be channeled through the Serbian Government or through those individuals who do not subscribe to effective measures to ensure truly democratic government in Serbia. It also sets forth United States policy regarding the apprehension and trial of suspected war criminals, such as Slobodan Milosevic.

Mr. Speaker, this measure also takes an important step in recognizing that, while the United States has and will continue to provide considerable aid to the states of Southeastern Europe, the predominant burden in that region must be upheld by our friends and allies in Europe. The United States is facing increasing burdens in our efforts to fight drugs and terrorism in Colombia, to support the peace process in the Middle East, and to fight the proliferation of technology related to weapons of mass destruction. Our military forces are also stretched thin, with peacekeeping missions in the Balkans adding to that strain. This measure would therefore limit United States bilateral assistance to the countries and region of Southeastern Europe to a certain percentage—15 percent—of the total aid provided by the European Union under the Stability Pact for Southeastern Europe or under any other such multilateral aid program for that region. Such a cap, while ensuring that United States assistance will continue, will also ensure that the European Union and other donors take the lead in this region of Europe.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be joined by several members of the International Relations Committee in introducing this important legislation, including Congressman CHRIS SMITH, Congressman BEREUTER, Congresswoman ROS-LEHTINEN, Congressman ROHRBACHER, Congressman GOODLING, Congressman HYDE, Congressman GILLMOR, Congressman MCHUGH, Congressman MANZULLO, Congressman RADANOVICH, and Congressman COOKSEY. Congressmen BILL YOUNG, DELAY, SPENCE, DOOLITTLE, SOUDER, MICA, and TRAFICANT are also sponsors of this measure, and I am hopeful that it will gain the support of other of our colleagues as well.

HONORING DR. VELMA  
BACKSTROM SAIRE

HON. BUD SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 22, 2000*

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to honor Dr. Velma Backstrom Saire for her distinguished career in education, and especially for her being named as this year's Distinguished Woman in Education by the University of Pittsburgh.

Dr. Saire will be concluding 45 years as a public educator when she retires this June from her position as Assistant Superintendent for the Quaker Valley School District in Sewickley, PA. Her professional career includes experience as a Restructuring Specialist for the Mon Valley Education Consortium and service in school districts in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, California, New Hampshire, and Connecticut as an elementary teacher and principal, special education teacher, director of the Allegheny County Schools Child Development Centers, central office administrator, middle school and high school principal, and part-time university instructor. She counts her experience as one of the developers of the Model School in McKeesport in the late 60's and early 70's, as the "Camelot of her career." She has been a consultant and workshop leader at professional meetings throughout the nation on a number of topics related to curriculum and supervision. Since Carnegie Mellon University's John Heinz School of Policy and Management's Educational Leadership program's inception 10 years ago, she has been an adjunct professor where she helps prepare future school administrators. She notes that she will continue to do this after her retirement.

Both high schools she led were designated as Blue Ribbon Schools by the U.S. Department of Education, recognizing them as exemplary schools along with the other 100 top schools selected each year. She has served as a site visitor for this program and as a reader for the U.S. Department of Education's National Dissemination Network. In 1992, she received the Educational Leadership Award from the University of Pittsburgh's Tri-State Study Council. In 1989, the Connecticut Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development designated her as one of three finalists for their Educational Leader of the Year Award. As a Connecticut high school principal, she was one of 25 public school educators selected for membership in the prestigious 100-member Headmasters Association, a group in which she continues to hold membership as an honorary member.

A graduate of Glassport Jr.-Sr. High School, she is cum laude graduate of the University of Pittsburgh where she received a B.S. in Elementary Education, her M.Ed. in School Administration in 1967, and her Ed.D. in Administration in 1973.

She serves her local church as Chairman of the Council on Ministries, Chairman of the Memorial Endowment Fund, and is a member of the Administrative Board. She is on the Sewickley Public Library's Board of Trustees.

On a personal note, it is a special pleasure for me to recognize this distinguished woman in education because many years ago she was the little girl whom I escorted to a junior high school dance.

UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF  
ENGINEERS

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 22, 2000*

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I have worked with the United States Army Corps of Engineers for my entire service in Congress. I have always found the integrity of the Corps beyond question. I have great confidence in the Corps, including an outstanding group of people who work in the Huntsville, Alabama, Division office of the Corps.

Serious charges have been laid on the military leadership of the Corps by some in the press recently. These claims about the soundness of the Upper Mississippi and Illinois River Navigation Study must be fully evaluated and whatever steps these evaluations indicate to be appropriate must be taken. Until that time, however, I find it unacceptable and unfair to our armed forces to challenge the professional appointees who have given their entire professional career to serve this country. All of these officers have come highly recommended by their peers. Many of us have worked with them earlier in our careers.

The Upper Mississippi and Illinois River Navigation Study has not been completed and is yet to be distributed for state and agency review. To criticize the unknown outcome of the study before the public review has even started may inhibit reasoned development of final recommendations for water improvement by the Secretary of the Army and unfairly color Congress' deliberations on those recommendations. There are certainly many potential alternatives and points of view that have to be considered; there is not just one. There are many uncertainties and unknowns that we will encounter as we plan and prepare for the future, but there is one certainty: the importance to the national welfare of navigation as an essential element of a sound transportation infrastructure.

Through the Corps Civil Works program, the Federal Government has created the world's most advanced water resources infrastructure contributing to our unprecedented standard of living. The program is essentially a capital investment and management program that returns significant economic, environmental, and other benefits to the nation. Though relatively small in the context of total Federal expenditures, investments in, and sound management of the Corps water resources projects have beneficial effects that touch almost every facet of modern American society—navigation projects that provide the Nation with its lowest-cost mode of transportation for bulk commodities; flood control projects that protect the lives, homes and businesses of thousands of Americans; and recreation facilities that enable millions of visitors to relax and enjoy the beauty of our country's waters.

I say that these kinds of decisions are extremely complex and controversial and are best left to the American people, acting through the Congress, to make. The stakes are so high and the potential impacts so great because national security, national competitiveness in the global market place, national health and welfare, and economic well-being of the Midwest grain producers, just to mention a few considerations are at stake. And I,